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CIA Analyst Tries to End Life With Gas

A Central Intelligence Agency analyst was found semi-conscious yesterday in his gas-filled apartment with several empty prescription bottles at his feet and suicide notes nearby.

He is Frederick E. Crockett, 45, of 2500 Wisconsin ave. nw. He was reported in critical condition last night at Gallinger Hospital.

Police called by apartment house employees said they found a rug shoved under the door and in the kitchen Crockett was slumped in a chair. According to Police Capt. Richard J. Felber and Lieut. Robert E. Talbott, four gas jets were turned on and the windows were sealed with tape.

One note was addressed to police and another to David Crockett of Ipswich, Mass., a brother of Frederick. In various parts of the apartment were papers warning of the gas and saying a match or spark might cause an explosion.

Talbott said the notes indicated Crockett did not believe he was doing as well as he wished at his job. Crockett, divorced several years ago, was well off financially, Talbott added.

A CIA spokesman said Crockett was not under fire, was not under investigation nor was one contemplated, and his work record was good.

A Harvard University graduate of 1928, Crockett was a lieutenant colonel in the Army and before that was a lieutenant commander in the Naval Reserve.

At one time, he was an explorer and went with the Byrd expedition during the 1930s to the Antarctic as a dog-team specialist. He also engaged in anthropological work among natives in the New Guinea jungles.

Meanwhile, homicide squad detectives declared, their investigation of the case of James S. Kronthal, an administrative officer of the CIA who was found dead March 31 in his 1662 23d st. nw. home is still open.

The coroner's office is withholding a certificate as to the cause of death pending completion of chemical analysis of body tissues. Kronthal left two notes indicating suicide, police said, and an empty vial and notes were found near the body.

Police noted that Kronthal had securities estimated at \$200,000 in his home. One of the notes, police said, indicated he was "mentally upset because of pressure connected with his work."

The CIA said there was no reason to believe the Kronthal and Crockett cases were connected.